

RURAL DISTRICT  
OF CHESTER-LE-STREET.

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— THIRD —

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

ON THE

Health and Sanitary Condition

OF THE DISTRICT

FOR THE YEAR 1897.

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Durham :

GEO. H. PROCTER, County Printer & Stationer, Market Place.

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CHESTER-LE-STREET.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Rural District  
Council.*

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit for your consideration my Annual Report on the Health of your District, and a summary of the Sanitary work accomplished during the year 1897.

I have also foreshadowed the chief items of Sanitary Work requiring accomplishment in the future.

It is my agreeable duty to thank you for the kindness you have meted out to me, and the assistance you have rendered me during the year.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

JOHN TAYLOR.

16th February, 1898.

## POPULATION.

Those townships which in the previous years showed a tendency to increase in density of population\* continue to do so.

As I have previously mentioned, the population is somewhat difficult to estimate correctly. Adopting the method of multiplying the average number of inhabitants per house at the last census by the present number of inhabited houses, as ascertained from the several assistant overseers, the population at the middle of the year was 57,024.

The absolute increase calculated by the method already mentioned was 1,690. The number of births over deaths would give an increase in the population of 1,226; but as there is always a migratory population to deal with, the difference between the two numbers can easily be accounted for.

During the year 1896, a portion of your district at Craghead was transferred to Lanchester, depriving your district of 1,304 people. That number, and a small decrease in each of the townships of Barmston, Biddick, Burnmoor, and Cocken being deducted from the increase, give a nett increase of 325 at the middle of the year, as compared with the population at the middle of the previous year.

## MARRIAGES.

The number of marriages for the year is 469, as compared with 461 last year, being an increase of 8. The marriage rate per 1,000 is therefore 16·4, and practically the same rate per 1,000 as that of the previous year.

## BIRTHS.

The number of births for the year was 2 155, being 2 less than the previous year. This gives a birth-rate of 37·8 per 1,000, or ·29 per 1,000 less than last year.

First Quarter, births	493	Rate, 34·61	per 1,000.
Second	„ „ 559	„ 39·22	„
Third	„ „ 531	„ 37·26	„
Fourth	„ „ 572	„ 40·13	„

The birth-rate for the administrative county is 35·00 per 1,000, and for England and Wales it is 29·70 per 1,000.

\* See Table IX.

The following table gives the birth-rate for the last eleven years:—

Year.			Rate per 1,000.
1887	..	..	37·93
1888	..	..	36·50
1889	..	..	34·60
1890	..	..	35·80
1891	..	..	39·50
1892	..	..	40·80
1893	..	..	40·40
1894	..	..	39·50
1895	..	..	40·70
1896	..	..	38·09
1897	..	..	37·80

### DEATHS.

The number of deaths\* during the year has been 941, as compared with 1,083 last year. This gives a general death-rate of 16·5 per 1,000, as compared with 19·0 last year, being a decrease of 2·5 per 1,000.

This number excludes 2 deaths registered in the district of persons belonging to outside the district, but includes 12 deaths of persons dying outside the district, but belonging to the district, viz., 10 dying in the County Lunatic Asylum, 1 in Sunderland Infirmary, and 1 in the County Hospital at Durham.

The deaths from the 7 chief zymotic diseases,† viz., Small-pox, Diphtheria, Scarlet Fever, Measles, Whooping Cough, “Fever,” and Diarrhœa are 124, or 88 fewer than last year. This gives a zymotic death-rate of 2·17 per 1,000, as compared with 3·72 per 1,000 last year.

I have again included the deaths from Gastro-Enteritis, 29 in number, amongst the zymotics.

Last year there was a high death-rate from Measles; this year that death-rate has been exceeding small. There is a decrease in the number of deaths from Scarlet Fever and “Fever,” but an increase in the deaths from Whooping Cough and Diarrhœa.

### INFANTILE DEATHS.

The number of deaths of children who have not reached the end of the first year of life has been 318, as compared

\* See Table A.

† See Table I.

with 394 last year. This gives a mortality of 147·5 per 1,000 born. Last year this rate was 182.

This year the death-rates must be considered very satisfactory.

From the following table it will be seen that your district is under the average of the administrative county, and that the general death-rate is much lower than it has been during the last decade, probably the lowest ever reached.

The climatic conditions during the year favoured a low death-rate, but these conditions were not better than during 1896. In that year, however, there was a large Measles Mortality, while this year escaped. Irrespective of the climatic conditions, one, I think, must admit that such favourable death-rates indicate to some degree the sanitary improvement which has taken place in your district during the past two years.

	General Death-rate.	Zymotic Death-rate.	Infantile Death-rate.
Chester-le-Street ..	16·5 ..	2·17* ..	147·5
Adminis. County ..	16·8 ..	1·70 ..	153·0
England and Wales	17·4 ..	2·15 ..	156·0

First Quarter, deaths	227	Rate, 15·93 per 1,000.
Second „ „	232	„ 16·28 „
Third „ „	228	„ 15·93 „
Fourth „ „	244	„ 17·12 „

#### Death-rates from 1887 to 1897 inclusive.

Year.	General Death-rate.	Zymotic Death-rate.	Infantile Death-rate per 1,000 born.
1887 ..	18·87 ..	..	201·0
1888 ..	18·16 ..	..	177·7
1889 ..	18·50 ..	2·30 ..	166·0
1890 ..	19·50 ..	3·30 ..	172·6
1891 ..	19·90 ..	2·10 ..	174·9
1892 ..	19·10 ..	2·50 ..	146·1
1893 ..	21·80 ..	3·10 ..	177·6
1894 ..	20·10 ..	3·30 ..	177·0
1895 ..	19·70 ..	2·27 ..	183·0
1896 ..	19·00 ..	3·72 ..	182·0
1897 ..	16·50 ..	2·17 ..	147·5

\* In the County Statistics Gastro-Enteritis is excluded from the Zymotics. If that is done in Chester-le-Street, the Zymotic rate would be 1·66 per 1,000.



## PHTHISIS.

The number of deaths from Phthisis (including Acute Pulmonary Tuberculosis) is 81, as compared with 61 last year. The death-rate is 1.42 per 1,000. This shows an increase of .35 per 1,000 from last year. Phthisis has shown a tendency to increase during both 1896 and 1897.

## RESPIRATORY DEATH-RATE.

The number of deaths from Respiratory Diseases, other than Phthisis, is 139, as against 165 last year. The death-rate is 2.44, as compared with 2.70 per 1,000 of the previous year.

The respiratory death-rate has decreased during 1896 and 1897, and the mildness of the two years may have had some tendency to affect this.

From the want of instruments, I am unfortunately unable to have any record, or even any knowledge, of the climatic changes and conditions which obtain during the year, though I consider that every medical officer of health should have such instruments for observation.

The instruments required are a rain gauge, hygrometer, a maximum and minimum thermometer, a thermometer for temperature 4 feet under the surface of the ground, and a barometer. Such a set of instruments would cost about 13 guineas.

## UNCERTIFIED DEATHS.

The number of deaths registered, the cause of which has not been certified by a coroner or a registered medical practitioner, or in other words "Uncertified Deaths," shows a marked decrease from that of last year. Again, the number varies greatly in the different townships, but those townships which last year had the greatest number again come prominently to the front. The number of such deaths this year is 59, as compared with 110 last year. Of total deaths the percentage is 6.27, as compared with 10.2 last year.

Your district is still above the county average, but the improvement is satisfactory, and from the action lately taken by the General Medical Council, one expects a greater decrease in the number of uncertified deaths in the future.

Pelton, Lumley Great, Urpeth, and Usworth have the greatest number of such deaths, and in the order of the townships given. Table 2 gives the number and percentage for each township.

### INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The figures below give the gross number of infectious diseases notified during the years 1890 to 1897 inclusive. The Notification Act came into operation in your district on the 1st February, 1890, and that year's are for eleven months only. The number of cases\* notified this year is 378, as compared with 819 last year, being a decrease of 441.

Year.		No. of Notifications.		Attack Rate per 1,000.
1890	..	403	.	9·61
1891	..	412	..	8·15
1892	..	574	..	11·14
1893	..	842	..	16·15
1894	..	518	..	10·14
1895	..	711	..	12·75
1896	..	819	..	14·26
1897	..	378	..	6·63

During the year the distribution of infectious diseases has been:—

First Quarter	..	..	Cases	157
Second	..	..	„	67
Third	..	..	„	52
Fourth	..	..	„	102

It is gratifying to have to record the smallest incidence of infectious diseases since the adoption of the Infectious Diseases Notification Act.

Without any doubt most infectious diseases are spread and propagated by direct contact of healthy with infected persons. While infected persons are permitted chiefly by those in charge of them to expose themselves frequently amongst healthy persons, I consider that a greater evil exist in neighbours bringing their non-infected children into infected households. In the present state of the law it

\* See Table B.

amounts to an impossibility to secure a conviction of a parent bringing healthy children into infected houses, though such conduct could be amply proved, nor yet are there any adequate means for preventing a concourse of people from assembling in a house in which a person dead of infectious disease is lying. The Public Health Act (Scotland), 1897, makes it an offence for anyone to permit such an assembly, and this is a marked improvement on the law of England.

Of the cases notified 217, or 57·4 per cent., is Scarlet Fever, and 99 or 26·2 per cent. is Erysipelas.

With reference to the Infectious Diseases Notification Act, some amendment appears necessary. I consider that Erysipelas should be omitted from those diseases requiring notification. During 15 years practice, I have not known an erysipelas patient infect another person, nor yet do I consider that the danger of propogating Puerperal Fever from erysipelas patients is so great as many imagine. Another plea in favour of eliminating Erysipelas is that an indefinite number of cases of some very slight septic erythema is notified as Erysipelas, for the name Erysipelas with different medical practitioners is not always associated with the identically same pathological condition.

Three successful prosecutions for exposure of infected children were instituted during the year, and in each case the defendant was fined twenty shillings and costs.

Another prosecution was instituted against a county court bailiff for removing articles without previous disinfection, which had been exposed to the infection of a dangerous infectious disease.

It was urged by counsel, on behalf of defendant, that he was acting according to some law, and consequently could not be infringing the Public Health Act. The Justices, however convicted, and imposed a penalty of twenty shillings and costs.

COMPENSATION.—During the year the compensation paid for articles destroyed, which had been exposed to the infection of Scarlet Fever, has been eight shillings.

## SCARLET FEVER.

This fever continued to subside during the year to a marked extent, and was nowhere prevalent save at Walldridge Colliery, where its incidence was marked during the month of February.

From Such information as I have been able to procure, the following table shows the number of cases notified from 1890 to 1897 inclusive, with the attack rate per 1,000 of the population.

Year.	No. of cases Notified.		Attack Rate per 1,000.
1890	..	284	.. 5.73
1891	..	267	.. 5.28
1892	..	404	.. 7.81
1893	..	331	.. 6.31
1894	..	304	.. 5.72
1895	..	495	.. 8.90
1896	..	553	.. 9.75
1897	.	217	.. 3.80

The number of cases\* notified during the year was 217, with 8 deaths, as compared with 553 last year, with 28 deaths. The death-rate was 3.68 per cent. of those attacked.

If the cases treated, and deaths occurring in the Isolation Hospital be deducted from the total, the death rate per cent. would be 4.54 amongst patients treated at home.

A very pertinent question is—What are the best means of checking the spreading of Scarlet Fever?

In your district during the last two and a half years, secondary cases in at least 95 per cent. have appeared within a fortnight from the first case in that house taking ill.

Such being the fact, no means of disinfection could have prevented those cases. In any ordinary dwelling-house proper isolation is impossible, and as isolation appears to me the only sure means of preventing disease and death, it should be obtained as often as possible.

\* See Table III.

Now, let me place before you the result of isolation during 1896 and 1897. During 1896, 102 patients were removed from their homes to the isolation hospital, and amongst the houses so affected only one secondary case occurred, or 1 per cent. of those removed. On the other hand, amongst families from which the first case was not removed, 70 secondary cases occurred, or 15·5 per cent. of the total cases treated at home.

During 1897, the record was worse for non-isolation. During that year 41 cases were removed to the hospital without a single secondary case occurring, but amongst families where the first case was not removed to the hospital, 36 secondary cases have taken place, which is 20·4 per cent. of all cases treated at home.

The removal, for isolation, of patients raises another question, which might not have been discussed, had not the following query and assertion appeared in a local newspaper : —“ Does the hospital facilitate the spread of Scarlet Fever in our midst ? ” “ The tradesmen . . . cannot afford to have a healthy village converted into a fever den.”

In an ordinary way one would leave severely alone an anonymous contribution in a newspaper, the more especially as one must assume from the tone of this contribution that it was written by a layman who knew exceedingly little regarding the subject he was writing about ; but the statement in the form of a query is a serious one, and a very misleading one, and one which might tend to the injury of the public health.

It is a well-known fact that Scarlet Fever is not spread from a hospital, even when situated in the midst of a densely-populated district.

With reference to Chester-le-Street, during the latter months of 1895, and the first two months of 1896, twenty-six scarlet fever patients were ambulated along the South Burus, yet during the period in question, and for months afterwards, only one case of Scarlet Fever occurred in that street, and that case was distinctly traced to contact with a case of Scarlet Fever in Pelton Fell. So much for the danger of spreading Scarlet Fever during removal.



With reference to the suggestion that the hospital propagates Scarlet Fever, the following figures speak for themselves. During 1896, ninety-one cases of Scarlet Fever occurred in Chester-le-Street village. If a line be drawn from the west end of Foundry Lane to the east end of the Low Chare, the village will be divided into two practically equal portions, one, a north division, lying nearer the hospital, and a south division lying further from the hospital. Of the 91 cases just mentioned, 58 or 63·7 per cent. occurred in the southern division, and 33 cases or 36·3 per cent. in the northern, or that division nearer the hospital. In 1897, twenty-four cases occurred in the village, and of these 17 or 70·8 per cent. were in that division of the village lying further away from the hospital, and 7 cases or 29·2 per cent. in the northern half. Further comment would be superfluous.

#### MEASLES.

This disease, which was very prevalent and very fatal during 1896, rapidly declined during the month of January, and the number of cases this year has been comparatively few, and the deaths only number 4, as against 94 last year. It was, however, so prevalent in Washington Village that your Council closed the elementary school from the 5th January to the 4th February inclusive.

#### ENTERIC (TYPHOID) AND CONTINUED FEVERS.\*

There has been a very marked decline in these diseases during the year, the number of cases being 33, with 8 deaths as compared with 108 cases and 14 deaths last year. The attack rate is ·58 per 1,000, and the death-rate ·14 per 1,000.

The case mortality is, however, high, being no less than 24·2 per cent.

The townships mostly attacked were Pelton and Washington. The cases were entirely sporadic, and in the majority it was found impossible to trace the disease to infected ingesta. Three of the cases were imported, and in these cases a history of prevalence of the disease in the locality from which the person came was forthcoming.

\* See Table IV.

A good water supply, and at the same time a supply that is not likely to be contaminated, is the best means of protecting a community from the ravages of Enteric Fever. There is, however, another danger, and one which is in most cases overlooked. This danger is the contamination of the air and person with the germs of Enteric Fever derived from excreta of enteric patients. The excreta, without disinfection, may be thrown into an ashpit, or what has been and is a very common order given to, and a practice adopted by those in charge of enteric patients, is to bury the excreta, not disinfected, in the garden, under the impression that the germs will either be destroyed or at least rendered harmless. Burying of typhoid excreta does not destroy the germs of the disease. In many soils, and I should say in all soils near villages, soils which are teeming with organic pollution, the typhoid bacillus will live and multiply for a very long time. I believe that those isolated cases of Enteric Fever, where no history can be obtained of the person having ingested infected food, and where the water cannot be suspected, are due to infection derived from typhoid bacilli in the soil. The person so affected by soiling his hands either from working in a garden previously contaminated, or by many another way from touching the ground or roadways, conveys the poison to his mouth, and receives the germs of the fever. It appears to me that in certain localities where open channels or large privy middens exist, typhoid fever is more frequent, but my statistics are too limited to permit me to judge definitely.

### DIPHTHERIA AND CROUP.\*

These diseases have never been epidemic; in fact, the number of cases is considerably fewer than last year, viz, 21 this year, as compared with 57 last year. The deaths this year are 7, or a case mortality of 33·3 per cent, as compared with 9 deaths, and a case mortality of 15·8 last year.

### PUERPERAL FEVER.†

During the year the number of cases notified has been less than last year viz., 8, as compared with 10. The case mortality this year is 100 per cent., as compared with 33·3 per cent. during 1896. Nine deaths have been registered, one death occurring this year of a case notified on the 31st December, 1896.

\* See Table V.

† See Table VI.

As I have previously remarked, the exact pathological condition which should be notified as Puerperal Fever is not yet defined, and probably only those cases of pyrexia following labour are called Puerperal Fever when death is imminent.

### ERYSIPELAS.†

The number of notifications has been 99, with one death, as compared with 91 cases last year, with 2 deaths.

I have on a former page referred to the advisability of excluding this disease from the list of notifiable cases.

### • WHOOPING COUGH.

There has been a marked increase in the number of deaths from whooping cough during 1897, as compared with 1896, viz., 23, as against 5.

This is what one might have expected from the large number of cases of Measles which occurred last year. There is usually an outbreak of Whooping Cough accompanying or following one of Measles. The very great majority of victims of Whooping Cough, as in Measles, is children under 5 years old.

### DIARRHŒA, INCLUDING GASTRO-ENTERITIS.

This year has again, from its low summer temperature, been a year favourable to a low death-rate from Diarrhœa.

The number of deaths was somewhat greater than that of last year, viz., 74, as against 62. The number of deaths from Diarrhœa was 45, and from Gastro-Enteritis 29.

Even with less favourable climatic conditions, I am certain that the abolition of badly constructed or dilapidated open channels, and also the lessening of the number of large open insanitary ashpits, would materially reduce the death-rate from Diarrhœa and its allies.

These diseases are par excellence filth diseases, and the lessening of the causes which pollute air, soil, and food must, of a necessity, reduce their effects.

† See Table VII.



## GENERAL SANITATION.

The amount of general sanitary improvements accomplished during the year has been satisfactory. In some townships the sewerage arrangements are primitive in character, and the open channels of these villages have a tendency, after a certain lifetime, to dilapidate markedly year by year.

The system of sewerage by open channels is objectionable in different ways. Open channels, most frequently full of filth, are offensive to the senses. The joints between the many bricks are small catchpits for filth collecting, being stored and putrifying. During frosts the channels become frozen, and the sewage is diverted to the roadways causing pollution of the soil. The inhabitants, instead of pouring their slops carefully into the channel, throw them towards the channel, covering the roadway with them for feet around.

As mentioned in my first annual report, a general sewerage scheme was evolved by an engineer, but the cost was enormous.

In the month of February, a deputation from your Council, consisting of Councillor Garson and myself, visited and investigated the "Septic Tank" system at Exeter, and reported that it appeared "a more efficient and cheaper means of treating sewage than any other brought before the notice of your Council."

A sample of the purified effluent, as it entered the river Exe, was shown your Council by the deputation. I have kept the sample exposed to light and heat, but it has not been ærated; yet now, eleven months after the sample was bottled, it remains quite free from smell or fermentation.

Sewage treated by tanks filled with coke breeze or furnace clinker will be so purified that it will not undergo further decomposition.

This is due to an organism living only in the presence of plenty of oxygen, and which practically devours the organic matter in sewage.

The excreta of these organisms being chiefly nitric acid and carbonic dioxide, they are able to convert filthy organic matter into innocuous inorganic products, capable of being turned into any small stream.

Your Council voted £20 to permit me to lay down a small experimental tank. After due trial your Council will receive a report on its efficiency to effectually treat the non-watercloset sewage of your district.

#### Water Supply.

During the year several places in your district have been given a proper and wholesome water supply. These places are, Granby Terrace, Upper and Lower Streetgate, in the township of Lamesley, supplied by the Consett Water Company; Havannah Terrace and the Raft Yard, in the township of Washington, by the Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company; and Houghton Gate, in the township of Lumley Little, also supplied from the latter company's mains.

On the 6th May, I presented to the Lumley Committee a report on the inadequate supply of water to Lumley village, Charles Pit, George Pit, Shop Houses, and The Terrace. This report was further considered on the 25th May. The recommendations were adopted by the committee, and consequently approved by your Council.

The places mentioned in that report have not yet been supplied with wholesome water, but the application for permission to borrow £900 for this purpose was made to the Local Government Board on the first November, but up to now that Board has not held any enquiry.\*

The village is exceedingly badly supplied with water

With the exception of Fatfield, in the township of Harraton, and isolated houses throughout your district, there is now to every hamlet and village a good supply of wholesome water.

A complaint reached me concerning the supply to Usworth Colliery and Waterloo, and after investigation it was discovered that at times the supply was deficient in quantity and tainted with coal dust. The County Analyst

\* The enquiry was held on the 23rd February, 1898.

reported that the supply was pure and potable. The supply has lately been improved.

The quality of the water supplied by the Washington Coal Company to certain houses in Washington Village could be improved by efficient filtration, and I hope that by next year I may be able to mention such improvement.

### Removal of House Refuse.

In different parts of the district the cleansing of the ashpits, &c., is more or less efficiently accomplished. In most of the townships a suitable place of deposit appears more and more difficult to procure as time progresses. In some places deep hollows on the public highways have been filled up with ashpit cleanings, and on the face of it one would consider this a most offensive and objectionable method. When one, however, examines this process, one must admit that there is little if any nuisance produced, and with a careful tipper the process must be considered not so objectionable as to suggest prohibition, and this is due to the fact that from the ashpits of colliery houses the inorganic contents are very much in excess of the organic ingredients, and with care in tipping, as I have already said, any nuisance can be avoided. Of course the practice is not carried out in the vicinity of houses. The fact that these ashpit contents contain a large quantity of stones, unburned and half-burned coal, with a medley of broken ware, tins, "*et hoc genus omne*," farmers refuse to take them even when carted to their farms, and much more so if requested to cart them. In consequence, owners and tenants in certain townships inhabiting non-colliery houses, find a difficulty in getting their ashpits cleaned out, and when they are cleaned, it is done at such uncertain times that a nuisance from overfull ashpits frequently exists.

I drew up a series of proposed bye-laws as under, to facilitate the cleansing of ashpits and the disposal of their contents.

These proposals were considered by your Council, and referred to the several local committees.

Pelton Committee (including the townships of Pelton,

Ouston, and Urpeth); Chester-le-Street Committee (Chester-le-Street township); Lumley Committee (Lumley Great, Lumley Little, Burnmoor, Biddick, and Cocken) recommended their adoption.

Birtley Committee (Birtley township) and Lamesley Committee (Lamesley township) recommended their non-adoption.

Witton Gilbert Committee (including the townships of Witton Gilbert, Edmondsley, Plawsworth, and Waldrige) and Washington Committee (including the townships of Barmston, Washington, Harraton, and Usworth) did not consider the proposal.

Nothing, in consequence, has been done in the matter.

## CHESTER-LE-STREET RURAL DISTRICT.

### SUGGESTED BYE-LAWS TO FACILITATE THE CLEANSING OF ASHPITS, &c.

1.—No Person shall put, or cause, or permit to be put into any Privy, Ash-Closet, Earth-Closet, or Ashpit, any Liquid of any description, unless where a yard gully is not provided.

2.—No person shall put, or cause, or permit to be put into any Water-Closet, Ash-Closet, Earth-Closet, Privy, or Ashpit, any Wall Paper, or similar Waste Paper, Basket, Box, or any Combustible Material of any description.

3.—No Person shall put, or cause, or permit to be put into any Water-Closet, Ash-Closet, Earth-Closet, Privy, or Ashpit, any Bottles, Oil-Cloth, Ware of any kind, Iron Work of any kind, or any Kitchen, or Household Garbage, or any such articles.

4.—All Combustible Articles should be burned, and all Bedroom, Kitchen, and other Slops should be carefully poured into the yard gully, where such gully is provided, so as to avoid unnecessarily soiling the adjacent ground.

5.—Such articles as Broken Ware, Bottles, Oil-Cloth,



Boots, Tins, or similar articles which cannot be burned, may be stored in any place save the Ashpit or similar receptacle, and shall be removed by the Local Authority or Contractor at such time as circumstances permit.

6.—With respect to any Sanitary Convenience used in common by the Occupiers of two or more separate Dwelling-Houses, or other Persons, the aforesaid Bye-laws shall have the effect, that such of the Persons having the use thereof in common as aforesaid as may be in default, or in the absence of proof satisfactory to the Court as to which of the Persons having the use thereof in common is in default, each of the Persons shall be liable to the after-mentioned penalty.

7.—Every Person who shall offend against any of the foregoing Bye-laws, shall be liable for every such offence to a Penalty of Forty Shillings; provided always that the Justices or Court before whom any complaint may be made, or any proceedings may be taken in respect of any such offence may, if they think fit, adjudge the payment, as a penalty, of any sum less than the full amount of the Penalty imposed by this Bye-law

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In three townships, viz., Birtley, Washington, and Witton Gilbert your Council contracts for the emptying of the ashpits, and frequent complaints reach your Council of the imperfect manner in which the work is done.

In Chester-le-Street township the ashpits of about 1,400 houses are cleaned by your Council's carts. The work is very efficiently done.

You employ two horses and carts and three men, and during the year over 5,000 loads are removed.

In the different townships the cost of the cleaning is as follows .—

Birtley	costs 51	pence	per house	per year.
Washington	„ 77.1	„	„	„
Witton	„ 77.6	„	„	„
Chester-le-Street	„ 61.7	„	„	„

The Chester-le-Street horses, however, do the street watering, which means leading annually for the last two years

225,000 gallons of water. Allowing £20 for that work, the scavenging is reduced to 58·3 pence per house per year. Allowing the amount deducted for the street watering to be added for depreciation of live stock, rolling stock, and buildings, the cost would be that given in the foregoing table.

After 2½ years experience, I have no hesitation in saying that the difference between the efficiency of the cleansing in Chester-le-Street, and that in the townships where your Council contracts for the cleansing is very marked. While the cost is less in Chester-le-Street, save in Birtley, the result is infinitely better.

A question arises as to the practicability of ash-closets in colliery villages. After their use in Lumley and Springwell, it must be admitted that from every point of view they are superior to the privy ashpit, with its multitude of maggots, and inches of foul smelling liquids, offensive to the senses, and injurious to the health of *everyone*.

It has been urged that their smallness will increase the difficulty of cleaning, but that in practice is not found to be the case.

SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS ACCOMPLISHED  
DURING THE YEAR AND REQUIRED IN  
THE NEAR FUTURE.

---

**Birtley.**

That portion of the hamlet of Portobello mentioned in my last year's report is now properly sewered and drained. The sewage is treated on land instead of being poured into a disused pit shaft as formerly proposed.

One public urinal has been erected in Birtley Village.

**Burnmoor.**

The condition of this township remains much the same. Privy accommodation is still required at Old Burnmoor.

**Chester-le-Street.**

The means mentioned in my last year's report, which were advised respecting the flushing of the North and South Burn sewers, have been found to act exceeding well, and no silting has taken place.

Four hundred and ten yards of new sewers have been laid; 10 ash-closets and 15 water-closets have replaced offensive privy ashpits.

At Chester South Moor the large ashpits are in close proximity to the houses on either side, and it would be a great improvement if the Coal Company, the owners of the village, would replace them by ash-closets.

The open channels at this village require replacing by proper sewers, and each house should be provided with a self cleansing gully.

Several houses, known as Furnace Terrace, Storey's Buildings, and the Furnace, including a dairy farm, much require proper sewerage and drainage.

Nothing has yet been done to render several private streets more passable and sanitary; yet the adoption of the Private Streets Works Act has been so far beneficial that several of the new streets now being made are constructed in a much better fashion than formerly, when the streets were considered made by laying on the soil a few inches of ballast.

#### Edmondsley.

Some difficulty is being experienced in this township to get scavenged houses belonging to private owners.

The sewage farm for this township purifies an appreciable amount of the sewage conducted to it.

#### Harraton.

Your Surveyor for the Harraton District prepared plans, &c, for the efficient sewerage of the village of Fatfield. These plans were approved of by your Council. The work was ordered to be carried out in sections, and section 4 and branches were completed during the summer. These sections sewered that part of the village which had practically nothing to convey the sewage from the houses. Each house has been provided with a self-cleansing, sanitary gully. During the year I expect to see the village completely sewered and drained. This village is in a very much more sanitary condition than formerly.

In the neighbourhood of Pelaw Grange Terrace is a very offensive ditch, which receives the sewage from that terrace. In the near future that ditch should be replaced by a proper sewer.

#### Lamesley.

The hamlet of Sunnyside has been properly sewered, and each house drained.

A joint report on the condition of the open channels (sewers) of Kibblesworth was made by Inspector Symon and myself, with the result that your Lamesley Committee resolved to sewer the village. This recommendation was approved of by your Council, and your Surveyor prepared plans and estimates for the necessary work. These were adopted, and a tender has been accepted for the work, which will be commenced forthwith\*. Each house is to be drained by a self-cleansing, small gully.

\* The work is nearly finished.



A scheme prepared by an engineer is being considered for the efficient drainage of Eighton Banks, the sewage, to outfall into the western sewer of the County Borough of Gateshead. The scheme appears to me to be a very expensive one.

Upper Streetgate, consisting of about 20 isolated old houses, will shortly be provided with an efficient sewer, the contract having been let months ago.

Eleven privies and seven ashpits have been provided for houses which were destitute of conveniences previously.

The ditch lying west of Ellison Place, Chowdene, which forms the boundary between your district and the Borough of Gateshead, receives sewage from your district, and is always in a very offensive condition. I consider that an intercepting, short sewer should be constructed to remove this serious nuisance. The cost would only be a few pounds.

#### **Lumley, Great.**

The water supply to this village continues deficient. The subject has been fully discussed under water supply.

Regarding the insanitary houses, respecting which notices were served on the owners, the greater number were voluntarily closed by the owners. Others were repaired, eight were rebuilt and a roofless old building has been thoroughly repaired and made habitable. A large number of the houses has been spouted and the Trunk Row drained. Ash-closets have been provided for the Charles Pit, Cocken Engine and the George Pit houses, and to several houses in Lumley Village. Altogether, during the year in the township, 3 privies and 49 ash-closets have been provided for houses which formerly had no such conveniences. The remaining large communal ashpit in the main thoroughfare will be removed shortly, and the 6 ash-closets erected 2 years ago in the main street, in a most objectionable situation, have been removed and rebuilt in a proper place. Several houses remain unspouted and unprovided with privy accommodation.

#### **Lumley, Little.**

Many of the houses in this township require spouting. Five ash-closets have been provided for houses previously wanting such.

### **Pelton**

The condition of this township is much the same as last year. The most important requirement being a system of sewerage.

### **Urpeth.**

No improvement has been effected in the privy accommodation at Eden Square. The houses have been repaired and improved. One hundred and forty yards of new sewers have been constructed in the township.

### **Usworth.**

Nearly all the large open ashpits at Bowes Crescent have been converted into ash-closets. This must be a very great improvement, especially when the nearness of the old ashpits to the houses was considered.

Reconstruction of the out offices at Taylor's Row, Usworth Colliery, is proceeding and two privies and one ashpit have been provided where none previously existed.

The open channels at Waterloo are becoming very dilapidated and the open channels (sewers) at the Colliery and the High Rows are very insanitary.

Your Surveyor is preparing plans for the efficient sewerage of these places and when ready they will be submitted for your consideration. The scheme, in my estimation, is the best for the district that could be devised and if completed will greatly improve the township.

At the New Rows an unsatisfactory condition exists. The sewer is placed midway between the rows and one gully receives the sewage of several houses. Around the gully is a small pond of sewage, offensive to the senses and injurious to health.

The pollution of the "River Don," which should really be designated a field ditch, is becoming year by year more marked.

This sewer is particularly offensive between the north side of the colliery heap and the main line of the North Eastern Railway Company. Your Surveyor's plans for the drainage of Usworth Colliery provide for the removal of all the sewage from this "river" which is now poured into it from New Washington.

A new sewer has been provided for some 20 houses at Springwell.

### **Waldridge.**

Fifty houses in this township have been generally repaired during the year.

### Washington.

A greater or lesser nuisance exists near the Barmston Ferry from hydrogen sulphide impregnating the atmosphere. These fumes are generated from sulphide of calcium washed out from two enormous heaps of some chemical bye-product manufactured years ago. The water is conveyed to the river in a private sewer belonging to the Washington Chemical Company, which frequently gets silted up, and as frequently bursts, flooding the roadway with this very foul smelling liquid.

I approached the owner of the works to get some mitigation of the evil. After some discussion he agreed to remove the outlet about 100 yards down the river, and thus far the outlet would be further from the houses than at present. After the liquid mixes with the Wear, little, if any, nuisance is apparent, and when this work is finished I believe there will be a marked improvement.

Though this township is more or less sewered, the sewers have been made by many hands with many ideas, consequently the same line of sewer may have several sizes of pipes. The sewage from Washington village outfalls in a field, but is allowed to meander across the field as it pleases. Sometimes in dry weather the field absorbs this sewage, but in wet weather the sewage is said to flow unpurified into a pond from which the Washington Chemical Company derives their water for trade purposes. The owner has privately threatened to apply for an injunction to restrain your Council from polluting his water supply.

Your Surveyor has plans and specifications ready for the efficient sewerage of the entire township, and at an early date these plans will be presented to you for your consideration.

### Witton Gilbert.

There are several ashpits in the village of Witton Gilbert becoming dilapidated, and many houses appear badly supplied with water, although water mains are laid throughout the village.

Three public urinals have been erected during the year, two in Saeriston, and one in Witton Gilbert. During part of the year the ashpits have been cleaned out by contract.

### Unwholesome Food.

No seizures have been made during the year of food unfit for the food of man.

### Bye-Laws.

The building bye-laws have been revised and amended in several particulars, especially in adopting a bye-law to compel a water-closet to be properly supplied with water for flushing purposes.

Your Council has approved of a form of ash-closet which in the future will be recommended. It was found that in getting ash-closets or similar conveniences built, that the suggestion, to the smaller owners, of having a plan drawn acted as a deterrent to proceed, and it was considered by your officers that if a plan was handed to an owner and him told to build accordingly, that work would be done which otherwise would not be started.

An attempt was made to get the Local Government Board to sanction a bye-law similar to sec. 36 of the Public Health Act, 1875, but attaching a penalty to an owner who did not provide privy accommodation to his house, but the Board did not sanction this bye-law on the plea that your Council had power to accomplish the providing of these conveniences under the provisions of the said sec 36. That such is the case cannot be denied, but the difficulty is in the working of the section, and a bye-law enacting a similar law would in my opinion be much easier worked, and would have accomplished improvements which in the meantime are difficult to get.

### Unhealthy Houses.

Throughout the year a large number of houses has been repaired after the usual preliminary notice, in consequence, few cases have been found necessary to bring under the notice of the Council, and only a few statutory notices have been served. Ample time was in all cases allowed to lapse before any legal proceedings were taken, and such were only found necessary in some of the following cases where statutory notices were served.

On the 23rd March statutory notice was served respecting four houses in the township of Edmondsley. Some repairs were executed and the houses partly spouted. Since then the houses are becoming worse, but it is asserted that the deterioration is caused by colliery workings. In consideration of this no further proceedings have as yet been taken.

On the 5th April notice was served respecting a house in the township of Usworth, and as nothing was done to render the house habitable, legal proceedings were instituted with a view to close the house. The house was ultimately closed by Magistrates' order. The house was afterwards made habitable and your Council offered no opposition to have this order determined.

On the 5th April notice was served respecting a house in the township of Lamesley and as nothing was done to render the house habitable it was closed by Magistrates' order.



On the 5th April notice was served respecting a house at Eighton Banks. Nothing was done to render the house habitable and a summons was issued against the owner. The house was then repaired before the summons was returnable, and it was withdrawn on the defendant paying costs.

On the 22nd April notices were served respecting three houses in Pottery Row, Lumley.

Two were repaired and made inhabitable, and one was closed.

On the same date notices were served respecting two houses in Love's Row, Lumley. As a result of the notices, both were so repaired as to be in a habitable condition.

On the same date a notice was served respecting a house in Front Street, Lumley. Rather than repair, the owner closed the house.

The Old Hall, Washington, has been repaired and made habitable, and a closing order made in 1895 was, in consequence, determined by the Court, your Council offering no opposition.

With reference to the Housing of the Working Classes Act, no provision has been made for the fines imposed by the Justices being paid to the Sanitary Authority, who has thus to spend money in enforcing the Act, while the County pockets all the fines.

This anomaly should be amended at as early a date as possible.

### Isolation Hospital.

During the year the number of patients admitted\* to the hospital was 53, as compared with 121 last year. Though the total was considerably less, the number admitted this year to total notifications was equal in ratio to that admitted last year. On the 31st December, 1896, there were resident in the hospital 26 patients, and during the year 41 patients suffering from Scarlet Fever, 11 suffering from Enteric Fever, and 1 suffering from Erysipelas were admitted. The average number of days resident for each Scarlet Fever patient was 56.0, and for each Enteric Fever patient 60.1. The average number of patients daily resident during the year was 9.58. Sixty-two patients recovered from Scarlet Fever, eight recovered from Enteric Fever, and one recovered from Erysipelas were discharged. During the year two deaths occurred in the hospital, both from Enteric Fever. The death-rate in the hospital during the year, calculated on admission, was nil in Scarlet Fever and Erysipelas, and 20 per cent. in Enteric Fever. This is a high death-rate in Enteric, but is satisfactory,

\* See Table VIII.

when one considers that the case mortality of patients treated outside the hospital was 26 per cent. On the last day of the year there were resident two patients suffering from Enteric Fever and three suffering from Scarlet Fever.

The administrative block of your hospital is totally inadequate for the purposes it is required for. The kitchen is only 10 feet square, and the servants' bedroom is the same size. There is no fireplace in this bedroom, and the ventilation is bad in the extreme, and certainly the room is not a suitable one for sleeping two servants.

Your Council, however, decided to build an enlarged administrative block but certain events occurred to delay its commencement, and finally it was determined to delay building operations until the spring of 1898. Before long I trust that the building will be commenced, for no one knows the difficulties imposed on the staff by the inadequacy of the present kitchen, &c., except those employed at the hospital. That the hospital is rendering a great service to the health of the community cannot be gainsaid, and I trust that in the future its benefits will be more made use of and I hope appreciated. Isolation saves suffering and lives, and as each life saved is computed to be worth, commercially, £500 to the community, the money spent on the hospital from a business point of view is very well invested.

In the month of July Nurse Crathorne terminated her services with the hospital, and Nurse Smith was appointed in her stead. Up to now Nurse Smith has given every satisfaction.







TABLE II.

TABLE OF UNCERTIFIED DEATHS DURING 1897,  
CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO AGES AND LOCALITIES.

LOCALITIES.	At all ages.	Under 1 yr.	1 yr. and under 2 yrs.	2 yrs. and under 3 yrs.	3 yrs. and under 4 yrs.	4 yrs. and under 5 yrs.	Over 5 yrs.	Percentage of uncertified to all deaths.
Barmston ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..
Biddick, South	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...
Birtley ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Burnmoor ...	2	..	1	..	...	...	1	7·70
Chester-le-Street	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	·52
Cocken ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Edmondsley ...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...
Harraton ...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	2·77
Lambton ...	...	...	..	..	...	...	...	...
Lamesley ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..
Lumley, Great...	6	2	1	1	...	...	2	24·00
Lumley, Little...	1	1	...	..	..	...	...	16·66
Ouston ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	11·11
Pelton ...	19	7	3	...	1	...	8	27·14
Plawsworth ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Urpeth ...	7	2	2	...	...	...	3	18·92
Usworth ...	14	6	5	...	...	...	3	12·96
Waldridge ...	...	..	...	..	...	...	...	...
Washington ...	5	4	1	...	...	...	...	6·49
Witton Gilbert ..	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	2·94
Dame Margaret's Home	..	..	..	...	..	...	...	...
Earl's House Industrial School ...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...
Isolation Hospital ..	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...
Workhouse ..	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...
TOTAL	59	24	13	1	1	1	19	6·27

TABLE III.

## SCARLET FEVER IN 1897.

NUMBER OF CASES NOTIFIED TO THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

LOCALITIES.	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	October	Nov.	Dec.	Total
Barmston ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	1	1	...	..	..	2
Biddick, South ...	..	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Birtley ... ..	...	2	7	2	3	..	...	1	...	...	2	1	18
Burnmoor ... ..	...	...	...	2	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	2
Chester-le-Street ..	9	4	4	6	1	2	2	1	2	..	..	..	31
Cocken ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Edmondsley ... ..	...	...	..	...	..	1	..	...	..	...	4	...	5
Harraton ... ..	...	3	2	...	1	1	2	...	...	2	2	...	13
Lambton ... ..	...	...	...	..	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	..
Lamesley ... ..	...	4	3	2	2	3	...	1	..	...	2	9	28
Lumley, Great ... ..	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	2	4	...	...	...	6
Lumley, Little ... ..	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ouston ... ..	...	1	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	1
Pelton ... ..	...	2	3	1	...	...	1	..	2	3	1	4	17
Plawsworth ... ..	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	2
Urpeth... ..	...	...	...	...	...	1	..	...	...	2	...	1	4
Usworth ... ..	...	2	4	1	...	1	2	...	..	...	..	2	13
Waldridge ... ..	...	...	19	5	3	1	...	..	...	...	1	...	29
Washington ... ..	...	5	6	3	...	1	...	1	2	6	4	1	29
Witton Gilbert ...	1	...	6	2	1	...	1	1	1	...	1	1	15
Dame Margaret's Home	...	..	...	..	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Earl's House Industrial School	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Isolation Hospital ...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Workhouse ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	..	...	...	1
TOTAL ... ..	29	48	26	19	10	7	8	7	12	15	24	12	217

TABLE IV

**TYPHOID AND CONTINUED FEVER IN 1897.**

NUMBER OF CASES NOTIFIED TO THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

LOCALITIES.	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	October	Nov.	Dec.	Total
Barmston ...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	..	...
Biddick ...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...
Birtley ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...
Burnmoor ...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	..	...	1	..	1.	3
Chester-le-Street	...	1	1	1	1	...	...	1	...	1	1	...	7
Cocken ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	..	...
Edmondsley	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	..	1	...	...	...	2
Harraton ...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...
Lambton ...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	..	...	...	...
Lamesley ...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	2
Lumley, Great	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	2
Lumley, Little	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...
Ouston ...	..	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...
Pelton ...	...	1	..	...	1	1	...	...	1	1	1	...	6
Plawsworth	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...
Urpeth ...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...
Usworth ...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	1	..	2	4
Waldridge ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...
Washington	..	1	..	...	..	...	...	...	1	1	..	2	5
Witton Gilbert	...	..	...	...	...	...	..	1	...	...	1	...	2
Dame Margaret's Home	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...
Earl's House Industrial School ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Isolation Hospital	..	...	..	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..
Workhouse ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
TOTAL	...	2	2	3	1	3	1	...	3	1	5	3	33

TABLE V.

## DIPHTHERIA AND CROUP IN 1897.

NUMBER OF CASES NOTIFIED TO THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

LOCALITIES.	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	October	Nov.	Dec.	Total
Barmston ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Biddick, South	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Birtley ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Burnpoor ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Chester-le-Street ..	...	2	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	6
Cocken ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Edmondsley	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	2
Harraton ..	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	3
Lambton ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Lamesley ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Lumley, Great	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Lumley, Little	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ouston ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pelton ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
Plawsworth ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Urpeth ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Usworth ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Waldridge ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Washington	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Witton Gilbert	1	...	2	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	7
Dame Margaret's Home	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Earl's House Industrial School ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Isolation Hospital	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Workhouse	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
TOTAL ..	2	2	5	6	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	3	21

TABLE VI.

## PUERPERAL FEVER IN 1897.

NUMBER OF CASES NOTIFIED TO THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

LOCALITIES.	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	October	Nov.	Dec.	Total
Barnston ...	...	...	..	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Biddick, South	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Birtley ...	...	...	..	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Burnmoor ...	..	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Chester-le-Street	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	3
Cocken ...	...	...	...	..	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...
Edmondsley	...	...	...	...	..	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Harraton ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Lambton ...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...
Lamesley ...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	..	...	1
Lumley, Great	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...
Lumley, Little	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..
Ouston ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pelton ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Plawsworth ...	...	...	...	..	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Urpeth ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Usworth ...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Waldridge ...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Washington	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	..	1
Witton Gilbert	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	..	..	...	...	1
Dame Margaret's Home	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Earl's House Industrial School ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	..	...	..
Isolation Hospital	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Workhouse ...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	..
TOTAL	...	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	..	3	1	8

TABLE VII.

## ERYSIPELAS IN 1897.

NUMBER OF CASES NOTIFIED TO THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

LOCALITIES.	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept,	October	Nov.	Dec.	Total
Barnston ...	1	...	...	...	...	..	...	..	..	..	...	..	1
Biddick, South ...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...
Birtley ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	4	8
Burnmoor ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	1	...	1	2
Chester-le-Street ...	1	4	2	1	1	..	...	3	1	2	3	1	19
Cocken ...	...	..	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	..
Edmondsley ...	...	...	4	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Harraton ...	..	1	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	1	...	4
Lambton ...	...	..	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	..	...	...
Lamesley ...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	..	...	..	...	2
Lumley, Great ...	..	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	1
Lumley, Little ...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	1
Ouston ...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pelton ...	2	4	1	1	3	...	..	1	...	3	..	2	17
Plawsworth ...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	..	...	...	..	...	...
Urpeth ...	1	1	2	1	...	..	..	1	1	...	1	...	8
Usworth ...	1	...	1	2	1	1	...	1	..	1	...	...	8
Waldridge ...	...	..	...	...	...	..	1	...	...	...	..	..	1
Washington... ..	1	1	1	...	1	..	...	...	...	...	1	...	5
Witton Gilbert ...	..	1	1	...	1	3	3	...	3	2	1	1	16
Dame Margaret's Home ...	...	1	..	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	..	...	1
Earl's House Industrial School ...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Isolation Hospital ...	..	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Workhouse ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..
TOTAL ...	8	14	13	7	7	6	5	6	5	10	9	9	99

TABLE VIII.

## HOSPITAL STATISTICS FOR 1897.

	Number Admitted.			Number Discharged.			Number of Deaths.			Number resident on last day of each month.
	Scarlet Fever.	Enteric Fever.	Erysipelas.	Scarlet Fever.	Enteric Fever.	Erysipelas.	Scarlet Fever.	Enteric Fever.	Erysipelas.	
1896.										
Dec. ....										26
1897.										
Jan. ....	9			16						19
Feb. ....	7			9	1					16
March ...	6			11						11
April ...	8	1		4						16
May ...	1	2		8	1					10
June ...				8	1					1
July ...	2		1							4
Aug. ...	4	1		1	1	1				6
Sept. ....		1		2						5
October	1	2		2	1					5
Nov. ...	3	1		1	1					7
Dec. ....		3*		1	2			2		5
TOTALS	41	11	1	62	8	1		2		

\* One case was found not to be Enteric Fever.



TABLE IX.

**POPULATION of the several Townships in the District,**  
**ESTIMATED TO THE MIDDLE OF THE YEAR 1897.**

	1891.			1896.	1897.			
	Number of Inhabited Houses.	Popula- tion.	Average per House.	Popula- tion.	Number of Inhabited Houses.	Popula- tion.	Increase. Decrease.	
							as compared with 1896.	
Barnston ...	137	592	4.40	585	126	554	...	31
Biddick, South ...	12	58	4.83	53	11	53	...	5
Birtley ...	826	4475	5.05	4908	989	4994	86	...
Burnmoor ...	282	1362	4.83	1372	283	1367	...	5
Chester-le-Street ..	1600	8623	5.38	11300	2153	11583	283	..
Cocken ...	37	176	4.76	105	18	85	...	20
Edmondsley ...	489	2741	5.60	3490	448	2186	...	1304*
Harraton ...	470	2177	4.63	2546	551	2551	5	..
Lambton ..	27	164	6.07	164	27	164	...	...
Lamesley ...	1008	4924	4.88	5075	1050	5124	49	...
Lumley, Great ...	390	1927	4.94	1832	408	2015	183	..
Lumley, Little ...	97	557	5.74	557	97	557	...	..
Ouston ...	147	953	6.48	946	150	972	26	..
Pelton ...	831	4296	5.17	4833	1000	5170	337	...
Plawsworth ...	205	1055	5.14	1049	228	1172	123	..
Urpeth ...	378	2172	5.74	2704	487	2795	91	..
Usworth ...	856	4513	5.27	4832	975	5138	306	...
Waldridge ...	374	1961	5.25	1533	292	1533	...	...
Washington ...	693	3953	5.70	4223	770	4389	166	..
Witton Gilbert ...	905	4215	4.65	4587	994	4622	35	...
<b>TOTALS</b> ..	<b>9764</b>	<b>50594</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>56699</b>	<b>11057</b>	<b>57024</b>	<b>1690</b>	<b>1365</b>

\* Transferred to Lanchester in September, 1896.



TABLE X.

## NUMBER OF HOUSES BUILT DURING THE YEAR.

EACH TENEMENT BEING CONSIDERED A HOUSE.

TOWNSHIP.	NO.	TOWNSHIP.	NO.
Barmston ...	... 0	Lumley, Great...	... 4
Biddick, South ...	... 0	Lumley, Little ...	... 0
Birtley ...	... 40	Ouston ...	... 1
Burnmoor ...	... 0	Pelton ...	... 24
Chester-le-Street ...	... 73	Plawsworth ...	... 4
Cocken ...	... 0	Urpeth ...	... 9
Edmondsley ...	... 32	Usworth ...	... 9
Harraton ...	... 1	Waldridge ...	... 0
Lambton ...	... 0	Washington ..	... 24
Lamesley ...	... 1	Witton Gilbert ...	... 0
		Total ...	...222



(A)

*Table of DEATHS during the Year 1897, in the Chester-le-Street Rural District,  
classified according to DISEASES, AGES and LOCALITIES.*

NAMES OF LOCALITIES adopted for the purpose of these Statistics; public institutions being shown as separate localities.  <i>(Column for Population and Births are in Table B.)</i>  <i>(a)</i>	MORTALITY FROM ALL CAUSES AT SUBJOINED AGES.							MORTALITY FROM SUBJOINED CAUSES, DISTINGUISHING DEATHS OF CHILDREN UNDER FIVE YEARS OF AGE.																							
	At all Ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards.		1	2	3	4	FEVERS.					10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	
													Typhus	Enteric or Typhoid	Contin'd	Relapsing	Puerperal														
Smallpox	Scarlatina	Diphtheria	Membranous Croup																												Total.
<i>(b)</i>	<i>(c)</i>	<i>(d)</i>	<i>(e)</i>	<i>(f)</i>	<i>(g)</i>	<i>(h)</i>	<i>(i)</i>																								
BARMSTON	9	2	3	...	1	3	...	Under 5 5 upwds.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
BIDDICK, SOUTH	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	Under 5 5 upwds.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
BIRTLEY	82	32	11	5	5	20	9	Under 5 5 upwds.	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
BURNMOOR	26	4	4	1	3	9	5	Under 5 5 upwds.	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
CHESTER-LE-STREET	193	72	20	4	13	51	33	Under 5 5 upwds.	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
COCKEN	2	...	1	...	...	1	...	Under 5 5 upwds.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
EDMONDSLEY	33	9	6	2	4	7	5	Under 5 5 upwds.	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
HARRATON	36	12	3	2	2	10	7	Under 5 5 upwds.	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
LAMBTON	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Under 5 5 upwds.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
LAMESLEY	78	35	6	3	8	13	13	Under 5 5 upwds.	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
LUMLEY, GREAT	25	4	3	...	2	8	8	Under 5 5 upwds.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
LUMLEY, LITTLE	6	2	...	1	...	...	3	Under 5 5 upwds.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
OUSTON	9	3	..	...	...	5	1	Under 5 5 upwds.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
PELTON	70	24	15	3	...	17	11	Under 5 5 upwds.	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
PLAWSWORTH	22	6	2	1	2	4	7	Under 5 5 upwds.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
URPETH	37	14	6	1	3	9	4	Under 5 5 upwds.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
USWORTH	108	41	19	7	7	23	11	Under 5 5 upwds.	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
WALDRIDGE	28	7	6	1	3	5	1	Under 5 5 upwds.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
WASHINGTON	77	29	14	2	2	17	13	Under 5 5 upwds.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
WITTON GILBERT	68	22	9	4	5	20	8	Under 5 5 upwds.	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
DAME MARGARET'S HOME	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	Under 5 5 upwds.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
EARL'S HOUSE INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Under 5 5 upwds.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
ISOLATION HOSPITAL	2	...	...	..	2	...	...	Under 5 5 upwds.	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
WORKHOUSE	23	...	...	...	...	8	15	Under 5 5 upwds.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
TOTALS	931	318	128	37	63	230	155	Under 5 5 upwds.	...	7	1	3	3	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
									...	1	3	...	...	7	...	...	9	...	1	...	4	22	37	...	2	85	1	26	4	253	446
																										54	77	3	31	208	485

The subjoined numbers have also to be taken into account in judging of the above records of mortality.

[illegible]





**B** TABLE OF POPULATION, BIRTHS, AND OF NEW CASES OF INFECTIOUS SICKNESS, coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health, during the year 1897, in the Chester-le-Street Rural District; classified according to DISEASES, AGES, and LOCALITIES.

NAMES OF LOCALITIES adopted for the purpose of these Statistics: Public Institutions being shown as separate localities.	POPULATION AT ALL AGES.		Registered Births.	Aged under 5 or over 5.	NEW CASES OF SICKNESS IN EACH LOCALITY, COMING TO THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.													NUMBER OF SUCH CASES REMOVED FROM THEIR HOMES IN THE SEVERAL LOCALITIES FOR TREATMENT IN ISOLATION HOSPITAL.																				
	Last Census.	Estimated to middle of 1897.			1	2	3	4	5	6	7			8	9	10	11	12	13	1	2	3	4	5	6			7	8	9	10	11	12	13				
											Typhus	Enteric or Typhoid	Continued												Relapsing	Puerperal	Typhus								Enteric or Typhoid	Continued	Relapsing	Puerperal
(a.)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	Smallpox	Scarlatina	Diphtheria	Membranous Group	Typhus	Enteric or Typhoid	Continued	Relapsing	Puerperal	Cholera	Erysipelas			Smallpox	Scarlatina	Diphtheria	Membranous Group	Typhus	Enteric or Typhoid	Continued	Relapsing	Puerperal	Cholera	Erysipelas										
Barmston ...	592	554	16	Under 5	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...			
Biddick, South ...	58	53	...	Under 5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...			
Birtley ...	4475	4994	201	Under 5	...	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...			
Burnmoor ...	1362	1367	46	Under 5	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...			
Chester-le-Street	8623	11583	413	Under 5	...	14	2	2	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...			
Cocken ...	176	85	2	Under 5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...			
Edmondsley ...	2741	2186	108	Under 5	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...			
Harraton ...	2177	2551	97	Under 5	...	7	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...			
Lambton ...	164	164	4	Under 5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...			
Lamesley ...	4924	5124	176	Under 5	...	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...			
Lumley, Great ...	1927	2015	66	Under 5	...	3	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...			
Lumley, Little ...	557	557	20	Under 5	...	3	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...			
Ouston ...	953	972	24	Under 5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...			
Pelton ...	4296	5170	194	Under 5	...	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...			
Plawsworth ...	1055	1172	39	Under 5	...	9	1	...	...	6	...	...	...	...	...	15	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...			
Urpeth ...	2172	2795	95	Under 5	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...			
Usworth ...	4513	5138	236	Under 5	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...			
Waldridge ...	1961	1533	59	Under 5	...	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...			
Washington ...	3953	4389	171	Under 5	...	13	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...			
Witton Gilbert ...	4215	4622	187	Under 5	...	16	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...			
Dame Margaret's Home	...	...	...	Under 5	...	15	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...			
Earl's House Industrial School	...	...	...	Under 5	...	14	1	...	...	5	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...			
Isolation Hospital	...	...	...	Under 5	...	4	1	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...			
Workhouse ...	...	...	1	Under 5	...	11	4	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	15	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...			
TOTALS	50594	57024	2155	Under 5	...	97	4	5	...	2	...	...	...	...	6	...	...	...	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...			
				5 upwds	...	120	11	1	...	30	1	...	8	...	93	...	...	...	31	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...			

The Infectious Diseases Notification Act came into operation on the 1st February, 1890.

The Isolation Hospital is situated in the Township of Chester-le-Street







